BOOM! STUDIOS™

JAMES TYNION IV

WERTHER DELL'EDERA

MIQUEL MUERTO

Nº 36

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

FIVE YEARS AGO.

...MORE ON THE HORRIFYING CASE IN NORTHEAST MINNESOTA, WHERE TWO CHILDREN WERE FOUND BRUTALLY MAULED ON FRIDAY...

A RASH OF DOG KILLINGS HAS LOCAL OFFICIALS CONVINCED THE ACT WAS COMMITTED BY EITHER A WOLF OR A BEAR...

.ITICAL NEWS

NEWS GLOBAL COMMUNITY CELE

...BUT EXPERTS REMAIN BAFFLED, AND PARENTS ARE KEEPING THE DOORS IN THE SMALL NORTH WOODS COMMUNITY LOCKED TIGHT.

SKREEK

UH... ERICA? YOU THERE?

YEP.

STILL HERE.

I, UH... GOT YOU SOME STUFF. I WASN'T SURE WHAT ALL THE PILLS WERE SO I GRABBED EVERYTHING THAT LOOKED STRONG.

=SIGH=

I NEED ***REGULAR*** WATER, RANDY. NOT FIZZY WATER.

WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY.

I'LL GIVE YOU BACK THE BOTTLE TO FILL UP IN THE SINK. IT'S FINE.

DID YOU, UH...DID YOU GET IT? DID YOU KILL THE ***MONSTER?***

NO. NOT YET.

RUSTLE

RANDY. BEHIND ME.

Whimper

IS THAT YOUR DOG?

NO... I THINK THAT BELONGED TO WALLY. Y'KNOW? ONE OF THE KIDS WHO ***DIED.***

THE ONE WITH THE PUPPIES.

YEAH. I HEARD SHE RAN OFF AFTER. I THINK HER NAME WAS ***BIRDIE?***

YOU GOT ME SOME COLD CUTS, RIGHT?

LIKE, SOME MEAT? YEAH. IT'S IN THERE.

GOOD.

ARROO?

RUFF

IT'S OKAY.

YOU'RE OKAY.

HEY, MAMA.

HM?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

whine whine
OH! YOU HAVE YOUR BABY.

RUFF

WHAT A PRETTY BABY.

IT GOT THE OTHER ONES, HUH?

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

THE DAMN THING'S GETTING STRONGER EVERY DAY, BUT KIDS AREN'T DYING. NOT SINCE THE FIRST TWO.

JUST BECAUSE THAT BOY DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE ONE WHO GENERATED THE MONSTER, DOESN'T MEAN THAT ***NOBODY*** DID.

SOMETHING IS COMING.

CRUNCH

AWW, SHE FOLLOWED ME.

KEEP YOUR FOCUS.

OH, SHUT UP.

HEY, LADY.

IT REALLY IS STRANGE.

ANIMALS GET KILLED BY MONSTERS ALL THE TIME, BUT THIS ONE SEEMS LIKE IT'S ***DELIBERATELY*** TARGETING THE DOGS.

ONLY TWO DEAD KIDS, AND ONE OWNED HER AND HER PUPPIES...

WAIT...

"THAT'S THE DUMBEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD IN MY LIFE."

SERIOUSLY, ERICA. YOU'RE BEING ***LAZY.*** YOU WANT A SIMPLE ANSWER.

I AM NOT ***SAYING*** THIS IS HAPPENING. I AM ***SAYING*** THAT I WANT YOU TO CHECK AND SEE IF THERE ARE ANY RECORDS OF ANYTHING LIKE THIS HAPPENING BEFORE.

OSCURATYPES ARE MADE FROM ABSTRACT FEAR, TAKEN SHAPE...

"...WHY COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN A PUPPY'S FEAR?"

BECAUSE IT'S AN ***ANIMAL,*** ERICA. PLEASE.

I TELL YOU WHAT I THINK. I THINK YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO ***PROLONG THE CASE.*** THERE'S MORE WORK TO DO. WE NEED YOU TACKLING THIS QUICKLY AND MOVING ON.

YEAH? THEN WHY DON'T ***YOU*** GO OUT IN THE FIELD YOURSELF?!

THIS IS THE SORT OF BEHAVIOR THAT WAS THE FIRST ***RED FLAG*** FOR JESSICA. IMAGINE IF CECILIA GOT WIND OF YOU TALKING LIKE THIS...

I DON'T GIVE A ***FUCK*** ABOUT HOUSE POLITICS, AARON. AND I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ***HER*** NAME.

YOU NEED TO BE ***REALISTIC.*** IT'S BEEN OVER A ***YEAR*** SINCE JESSICA DIED. YOU CAN'T HOLD THIS GRUDGE FOREVER.

YEAH? WATCH ME.

OKAY, GO PLAY WITH YOUR LITTLE ***PUPPIES,*** THEN. I'LL MAKE SOME EXCUSES TO KEEP YOU ALIVE. JUST LIKE ***YOU*** USED TO DO FOR ***HER.***

CLACK

FUCKER.

UH... ARE YOU, UH...

OKAY?

SORRY, RANDY. WAS JUST TALKING TO A REAL FUCKING ASSHOLE.

CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THAT KID, WALLY? THE ONE WHO OWNED BIRDIE?

I MEAN. I DUNNO. I DON'T WANNA BE AWFUL, SINCE I KNOW HE'S DEAD AND ALL. BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GONNA MISS HIM, Y'KNOW?

HE WAS ***MEAN.***

DO YOU THINK HE WOULD HAVE HURT A PUPPY?

HEY, LADY. IT'S OKAY. I HAVE YOUR BABY RIGHT HERE.
SNIFF

BORF
BORF
BORF

I KNOW. IT'S SCARY. THERE'S SOMETHING VERY BAD IN THERE.

SOMETHING THAT TOOK YOUR OTHER BABIES AWAY.
WOF

I'VE DONE THIS BEFORE WITH HUMAN KIDS. I PROMISE I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOUR BABY.

BUT I CAN ONLY STOP THIS MONSTER FROM KILLING OTHER PUPPIES IF I LURE IT IN.

IS THAT OKAY, BIRDIE? DO YOU TRUST ME?

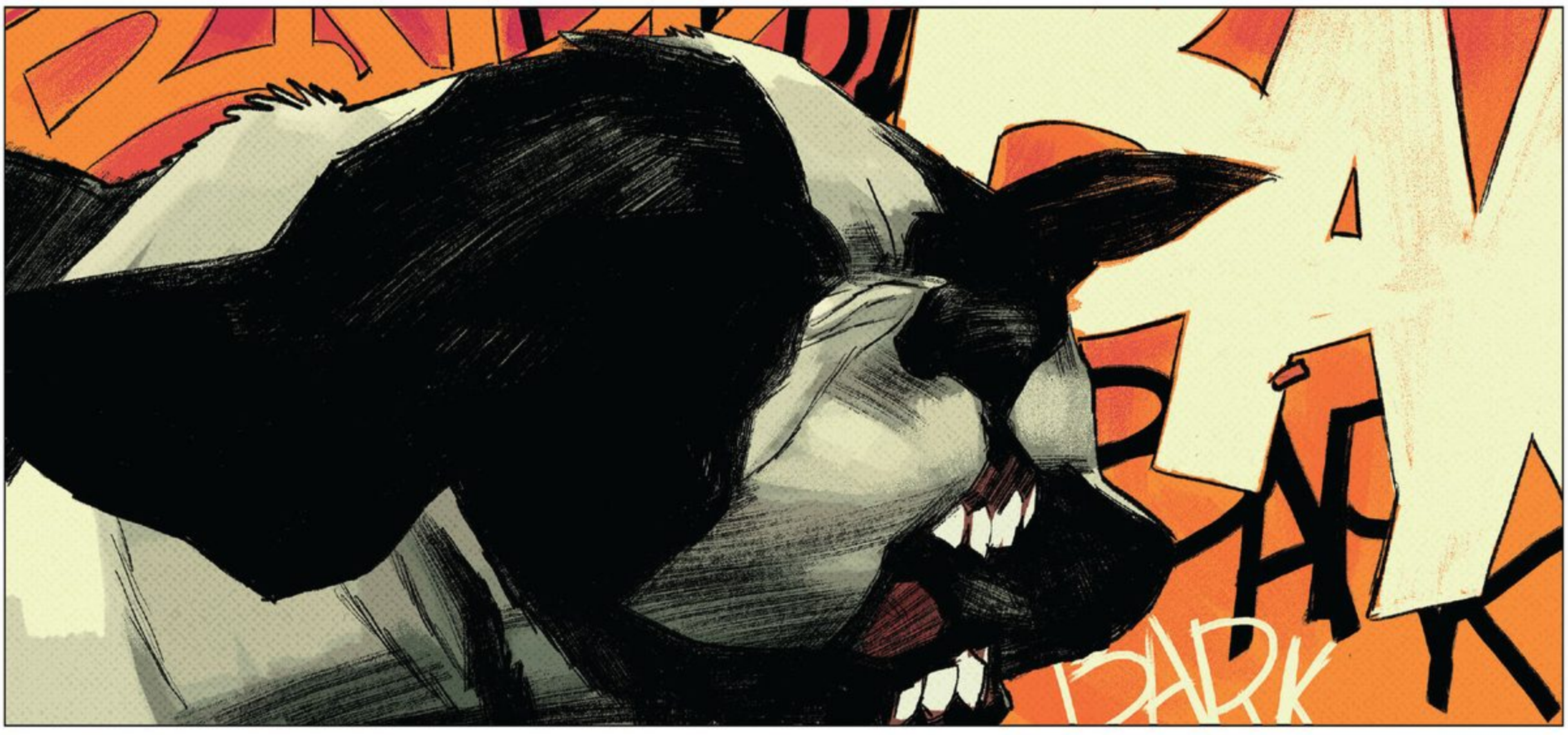
ARROO

I'M SORRY, HONEY. I KNOW THIS ISN'T FAIR. I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED AND YOU LOST YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

WOOF

GRRRRRRRRRRR

EEARRRGHH


BARK

GOOD JOB, BABY. I CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE.

OKAY. THIS IS GOING TO HOLD.

GET YOUR BABY TO SAFETY. RUN.
DO YOU HEAR ME, BIRDIE?

RUN!

LATER.

SNIFF

GOD, I NEED A REAL SHOWER. I STINK.

IS THE MONSTER DEAD?

YEAH. IT'S OVER NOW.

DOES THAT MEAN YOU GET TO GO HOME?

HOME... PROBABLY DOESN'T MEAN THE SAME THING TO ME AS IT DOES TO YOU.

TO ME, HOME WAS PEOPLE. PEOPLE YOU LOVE. PEOPLE YOU CAN RELY ON.

"I DON'T HAVE THAT, ANYMORE."

DINER

THAT'S SAD.

YEAH.

BORF

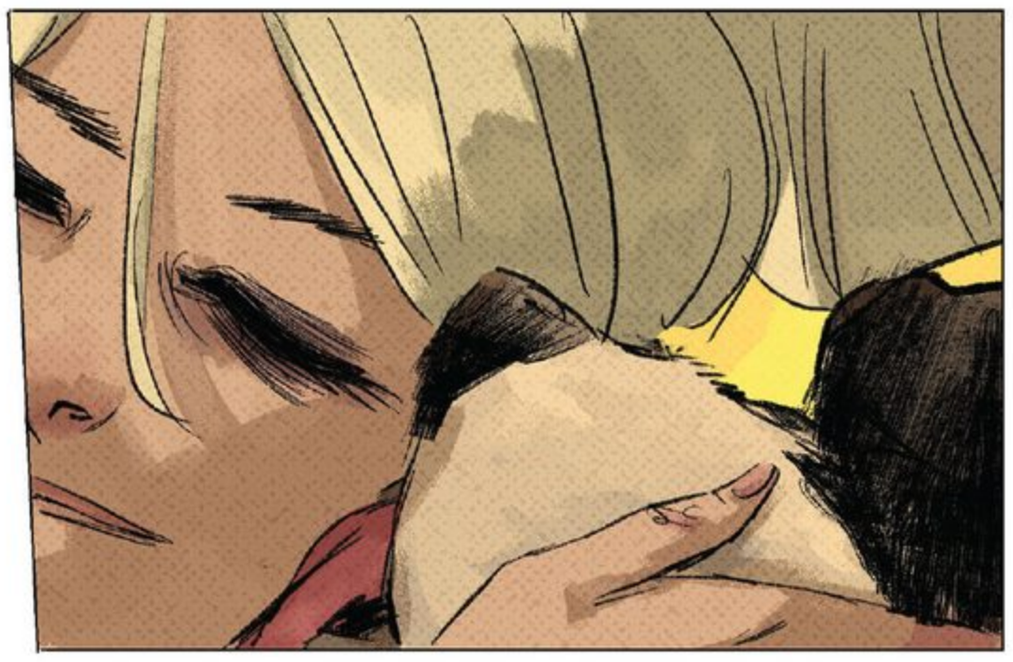
MAKE SURE THIS PUPPY GETS A LOT OF LOVE.

IT'S GOING TO BE SCARED OF A LOT OF THINGS, AND THAT CAN BREAK SOMEBODY. IT CAN MAKE THEM ***MEAN.***

BUT IF YOU GIVE IT A ***LOT*** OF LOVE, IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY. IT'S GOING TO HAVE A GOOD, LONG, HAPPY LIFE.

I HOPE YOU CAN HAVE A GOOD, LONG, HAPPY LIFE TOO.

KEEP THESE KIDS SAFE. BOTH OF THEM.



WILL I EVER SEE YOU AGAIN?

I HOPE NOT. GOODBYE, RANDY.
GOODBYE...

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

"ROAD STORIES"
PART ONE

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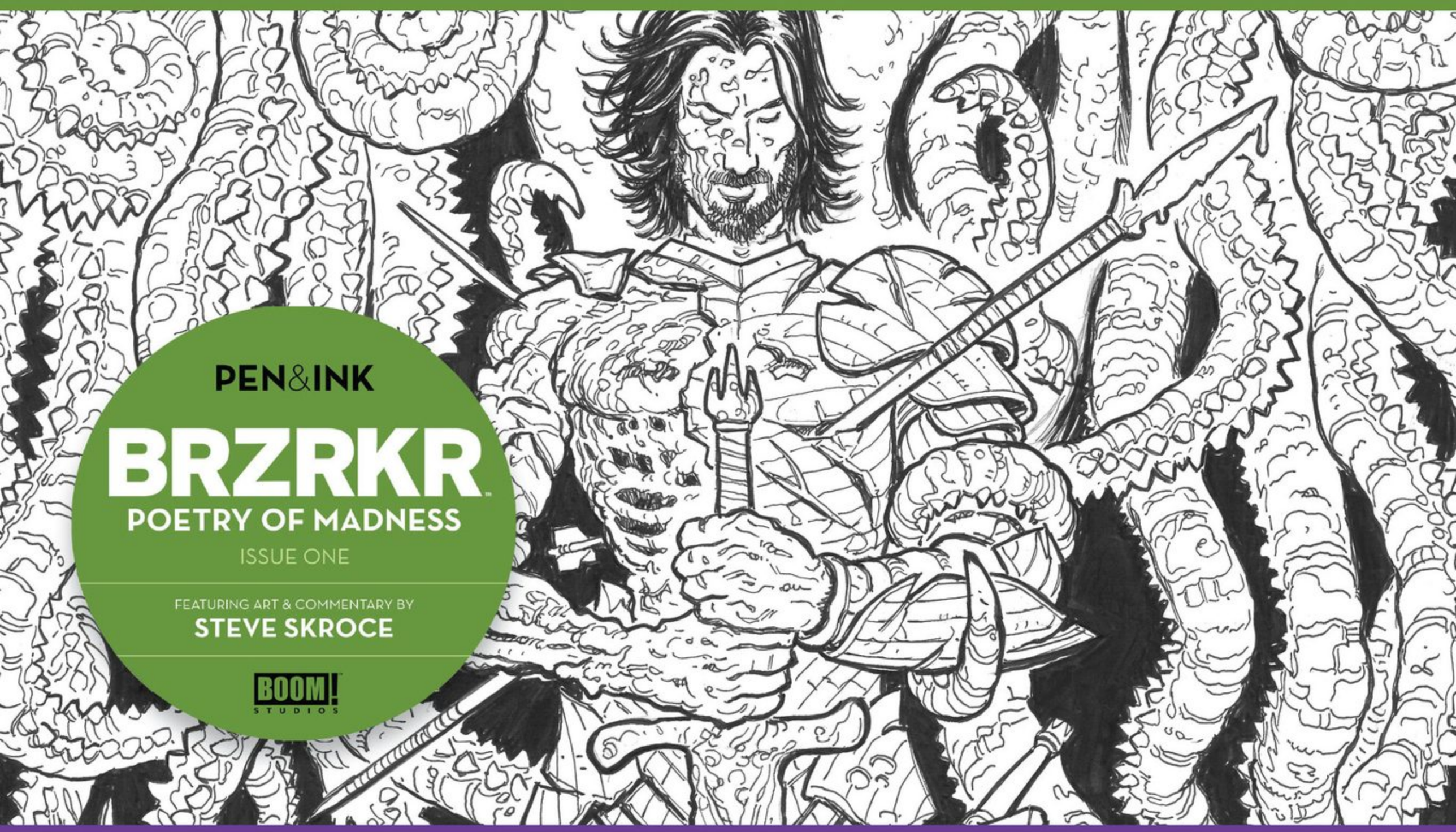

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